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For Immediate Use

Fowler in Focus: Doors in Global Perspective Opens June 24 at the Fowler Museum at UCLA

Twenty impressive and diverse doors drawn from the Fowler Museum collections are considered in ‘Fowler in Focus: Doors in Global Perspective,’ on display at the Museum from Jun. 24–Dec. 2, 2007. These carved, embossed, embroidered, beaded, and painted portals from around the world illustrate extraordinary artistry and the wide conceptual variety that diverse cultures bring to the uses, meanings, and potentialities of doors.

The doors on display in this exhibition date from the 19th–20th century and are from Asia, the Pacific, Africa, and the Americas, with many examples from Nigeria and Indonesia. Most are made of wood, and embellished with carving (showing dragons, crocodiles, and abstract designs), paint, and other decorations, while three of the pieces are textile hangings from India, and feature elaborate embroidery and beading. Their original places of use include tombs, granaries, homes, ceremonial houses, and even a palace, as in the case of a richly ornamented wood door from Nigeria carved by Yoruba artists Lamidi Fakeye and Fayomi. Created for a palace gate in the city of Ile-Ife, this door is one of sixteen commissioned in the 1950s by Adesoji Aderemi II, the reigning king.

The doors selected for this Fowler in Focus exhibition share a number of significant characteristics. Some communicate prestige and status, perhaps identifying their owners as wealthy or important ancestors. Many of these doors served to protect in the widest sense and include imagery capable of offering spiritual as well as physical security. Their symbols could also be propitious, alluding to cosmology, ancestors, and deities, as well as to abundance, health and wellbeing, continuity, and beneficence.

‘Doors in Global Perspective’ will be on view in the Fowler in Focus gallery, the central space within ‘Intersections: World Arts, Local Lives.’ Fowler in Focus is dedicated to rotating installations of new acquisitions, sub-collections, and particular artistic genres in the Fowler’s permanent holdings. The Fowler is open Wednesdays through Sundays, from noon to 5 p.m.; and on Thursdays, from noon until 8 p.m. The museum is closed Mondays and Tuesdays. The Fowler Museum, part of UCLA’s School of the Arts and Architecture, is located in the north part of the UCLA campus. Admission is free. Parking is available for a maximum of \$8 in Lot 4. For more information, the public may call (310) 825-4361 or visit fowler.ucla.edu.